

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2004

LB 479, 1065

advancement of LB 479 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is there any discussion? If not, the motion is to advance. All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carried. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to return the bill to Select File for specific amendment, AM3610. (Legislative Journal pages 1553-1554.)

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to put an idea before you tonight, which I will take up on LB 1065, and the idea is a way of funding the ethanol fund, which you may remember we left yesterday \$8 million short of funding those facilities that we know will be coming on line. And this isn't even my suggestion, but a suggestion that I got from our very excellent fiscal staff here at the Legislature, and it's a way of putting in that \$8 million without increasing any taxes, but simply by virtue of extending two taxes. And I've passed out a sheet for you that I hope maybe you'll look at tonight, and at the bottom of the sheet it says amendments, and these are the two things that the amendment would do to make the ethanol fund right for those facilities that we know at this time we need to fund. And one of the things you would do would be to increase the...or, I'm sorry, revise the ending date of the off-road fuel checkoff to December 31, 1011 (sic). That is for about...I think that's a year and a half. And secondly, to revise the ending date of the increased grain checkoff to October 1, 2011, which is about two years. So out there on the right-hand side where I've circled the numbers, those are the years in which the extended tax would fill in, and then you'll see in the lower right-hand corner that that makes the fund whole, just barely, but \$175,000 to the positive. And if they...if we would do that, we would take care of this gap and not leave another gap in our funding to be taken care of next year, and to do it in a way that does...that extends but doesn't increase the rate on any tax or create any new tax. So I'm going to leave this up there just for one second in case anybody wants to comment. I'm guessing that you're all drained for this